



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 116 – Winter 2023



The Watson Community Association Inc. acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of Canberra and pays our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia have now made Canberra their home. We also acknowledge and celebrate their cultures, diversity, and contribution to the ACT and region.



Swift Parrot. Photo courtesy Stephen Hunter.

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Welcome to Watson!

By Geoff Murray-Prior, Chair of Watson Community Association

The WCA held its AGM on Tuesday 18th April. We had a very interesting presentation by representatives of the Environment Defenders Office in the ACT, and this generated a lively question and answer session. It was unfortunate that only about twenty or so people were in attendance. We farewelled Julie and Lesley from the Committee and acknowledged respectively their dedication to the WCA. We also welcomed Veronica and Max to the Committee. There are still a couple of vacancies on the Committee so if you feel a commitment to Watson we would welcome your offer to join us. Again, I have the honour of being the Chair for the current year.

Welcome to Watson*

**The Watson
Community
Association
Inc. wishes to
thank the
Australian**

**Catholic University (Signadou Campus,
Canberra) for printing the WATZON
newsletter as a community service.**



*How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard**

Watson residents have been saddened by the news of Peter Bigg's recent death. Peter lived in Watson for over thirty years with his wife Judy, where they tended their garden and raised their four children —Stuart, Penny, Rosemary and David — and later played with their grandchildren Elodie, Archie, Arthur, Henry, Alice and Freya.

In addition to his fulfilling career at Treasury, which included postings to Germany, Brussels and PNG, Peter dedicated much of his time to his family. He also contributed to the local community, including as a Scout Leader at the Watson Scout Hall.



Peter Arthur Biggs

20 February 1942 – 26 February 2023

His neighbours will miss watching him tend and net his beloved cherry trees, the long and thoughtful conversations and the moments of playfulness and whimsy he enjoyed — including seeing him swing from the pine tree in the local reserve ❁

**Title is a quote from Winnie the Pooh*

Editor's word

By Nora

Thank you very much to those who have contributed to the Watzon newsletter. I'd like to keep my section brief this time because we have lots of content to cover in this current issue. I hope you all enjoy reading it.

Please be in touch if you have any ideas or feedback
watzoneditor@gmail.com *

A Spate of Scams

Several local residents have recently been the target of scams. Scammers are getting increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to get money or personal details. One scam involved a caller offering an upgrade to them to the 5G network, and another impersonated a friend who they claimed was in hospital, and needed help buying gift cards.

A scam is a way of tricking people into handing over money or personal details. Anyone can be a victim of a scam. Please be wary of any requests for your personal details or money.

If you have been scammed, follow these steps to act:



1. Don't send any more money. Block all contact from the scammer.
2. Contact your bank or financial institution immediately to report the scam. Ask them to stop any transactions.
3. Report the scam to Scamwatch at scamwatch.gov.au and warn your family and friends about the scam so they can watch out for any potential follow up scams.

You can also seek support from IDCARE on **1800 595 160** *

The Swifties and the wombat

By Veronica Walker

This May, Watson has been visited by critically endangered Swift Parrots. According to BirdLife Australia, these remarkable birds are one of only three migratory parrot species in the world.

Each autumn, Swift Parrots fly from Tasmania, across the Bass Strait to mainland Australia where they spend the winter months. This winter migration, they have stopped off in the Watson Woodlands and Mount Majura on their migration up north.

In other wildlife news, Friends of Watson Green Space member, Mary Sietsma and her dog, Monkey, recently made a rare and exciting discovery when they chanced upon a wombat during a night walk at the foot of Mount Majura. According to NatureMapr's Koala and Wombat moderator, Don Fletcher, this is only the fourth wombat record in the Ainslie Majura region, and could possibly indicate the start of a new wild population ❁



Photo credit: Mary Sietsma



WELCOME TO WATSON

**Please
join us**

The Watson Community Association Inc. invites newcomers to Watson to a casual, free event!

Friendly locals are also invited to welcome our new neighbours

Sun 2nd July at 1.30 to 3:00 pm
**The Knox Cafe, Watson Village
Shops**

Local groups, organisations, businesses, sporting & hobby clubs have been invited

More information:

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

Inner North PlaySpace - All this and toilets too!

By Simon Clarke- WCA Planning Group Convenor and NCCC representative

The consultation stage for the Inner North Play Space, situated on the old High School oval, has begun in earnest. In May two meetings were held, one with Government stakeholders and one with community organisations, which I attended.

There is \$2.6m set aside for the project. How far can it stretch? No one knows but it *should* allow for a play space to be established at the NE corner of the block (where the mound is) and an adjacent picnic/BBQ area with toilet block. It includes a \$200K donation from AIE to allow for refurbishment/update of the tennis courts. It should also allow for a complete Master Plan Design to be created so that further elements can be added as funds are available (lobbying opportunity!) Multiple age groups and activities will be catered for in the final product.

They wish to retain as many trees as possible (a few are very diseased and will have to be removed) and see new plantings as a part of the total design as well as providing canopy cover etc.

The Garden City Cycle Path (currently being surveyed) will run near the tree line up Windeyer St and will need to be taken into account although it is a separate project. The “main” entry to the Play Space would be on the Windeyer/Burton corner to take advantage of the cycle path safety measures plus proximity to bus stops.

Parking will be on street with possible “blister” parking along Burton St. The possibility of closing Burton St was suggested by the group but was not well received. What do the Watson community think? An off street car park has not been considered as it would take away play space and creating a new car park is very expensive. Basic lighting would be installed.

Next steps will be “pop-up” consults at the shops, resident letterboxing and online feedback opportunities. ***Get involved Watson and have your say ****

Majura Café Poets

Two Trees

Two trees in our memorable
Macauley Street are 'married'...
Well, I think they're married,
But these days it can be hard to say.
There they are
In a rich golden glow
(Autumn seeming to be their
favourite time)
One with its arm stretched
To reach the other
And families passing
'Neath their thoughtful arch
Seemed calmed
Bewitched into their unwordable
wisdoms ❀

Jill Sutton

The Fox

The Fox has gone to cover.
Under his thick red coat of lies
He hides.
Prince of deception
Bluster and bombast,
Judgement Day
Will uncover his feet of clay,
Reveal his shame ❀

Judy Smith

Ellie

once in my dream
her fingers led the piano
into quiet song
her long, long hair sweeping keys
'Mum' she said, "listen". ❀

Belinda Ketley

Watson Community Pantry

By Kathleen Aguirre

Have you noticed a pink filing cabinet behind the bus stop on the corner of Knox and Higinbotham streets? It's Watson's very own Community Pantry!

Following the success of other Inner North pantries, it has been established in collaboration with the wonderful women who run the O'Connor, Ainslie and Braddon Community Pantries. Like its forebears, the Watson Community Pantry is 100% donation driven, receiving no government funding.

The Watson Community Pantry is open 24/7 and provides judgement free access to essential items, such as non-perishables, toiletries and period products. We hope that anyone in our community experiencing ongoing or temporary hardship feels comfortable accessing these items. Please feel free to take what you need, no questions asked.

In addition to these items, the Pantry receives fresh fruit and vegetables every Wednesday purchased with funds raised by the Inner North pantries network and donations from the Box Divvy Watson hub. We are also incredibly grateful to the Knox for donating their unsold bread and delicious pastries Monday to Friday. The collective Inner North pantries will be holding fundraisers throughout the year to maintain this service so keep an eye out for these! We are also pursuing sponsorship opportunities and we'd love for you to contact us if you're able to provide support, for example by chipping in to purchase the fruit and vegetable box.

This initial support by our fantastic community has been heartwarming but demand is high. Week to week, we rely on the generous donations of people like you to help keep the pantry's drawers stocked.

There are a few simple things you can do to support the Watson Community Pantry. If you're planning to do a kitchen cupboard clean out at home, please consider donating any unopened items, even if they are past their best before date (not past used by date though). Or if you're able, you may wish to grab a couple of essential items during your next grocery shop for donation. You could also donate your empty bottles and cans to us which we redeem for cash as part of the ACT Government's container deposit scheme.

Popular items include: UHT milk, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, vegetables and, soups, and muesli bars.

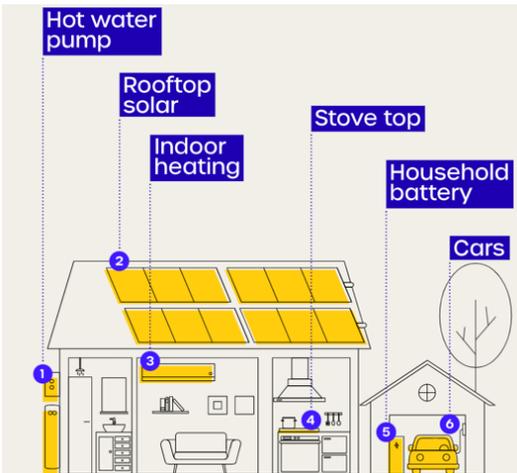
Please like the 'Watson Community Pantry' Facebook page for updates, to establish sponsorship or get in touch for donations to be collected.

Thanks again for being such legendary community members ❁

Help Watson become a world-leading suburb

By Michael Howe and Sarah Reid

We're excited to introduce you to Suburb Zero ACT - a local volunteer-based organization in Canberra that is passionate about decarbonizing our community and reducing energy bills for residents. With the help of volunteers and inspired by climate policy maker, Dr Saul Griffith, Suburb Zero ACT aims to navigate policies and work with local politicians to build support for a world-leading trial in Canberra to fully electrify households in a chosen suburb and support participating households.



What does this mean for you? It means Suburb Zero ACT wants to help you significantly reduce your energy bills by securing subsidies from government to support up to 1000 households willing to electrify six things in their home.

We would love community members to advocate for a pilot to help households switch from fossil fuel appliances to electric, with a particular focus on retro-fitting

apartments, renters and low-income households.

Why should you consider participating? Not only will you save money, but you will also be contributing to a cleaner future. Canberrans have the means and subsidies to combat climate change, but it can be daunting to navigate the patchwork of government policies. Suburb Zero ACT wants to make it easier for you to make a difference.



To show your support for Watson to be part of this trial, fill in this short survey via the QR code:

You can also go to <https://www.suburbzeroact.au/> to learn more and complete the survey *

Have you met Mike?

Introducing Mike, a Watson resident, partner and dad to two, who decided to electrify his home, and he couldn't be happier with the results. Mike's



motivation to make the switch came from two key factors: the opportunity for substantial cost savings and the promise of a more healthy living environment. Not to mention he wanted to do something tangible for the environment.

Mike electrified four out of the six components of his home: the hot water heater, indoor heating, rooftop solar, stove top. Through the subsidies provided by the ACT government (used part of a \$15,000 10 year no interest loan) and his bank (used part of a \$20,000 10 year 1% interest green loan), Mike was able to make the transition to electric appliances, and the benefits quickly became apparent.

First, Mike experienced a significant reduction in his energy bills. By utilizing energy-efficient electric alternatives he noticed a remarkable decrease in his monthly expenses, leaving more money in his family's pocket for other priorities.

Also, Mike's decision to electrify his home brought about an improvement in his living environment. The indoor heating system and induction cooktop not only provide consistent warmth but also ensured a healthier environment, free from the fumes and allergens associated with gas cooking and heating methods. With his rooftop solar panels, Mike has a reliable and sustainable energy source that allows him to end up in credit on his power bills.

Mike is thrilled to have made these changes and believes that other Watson residents should consider electrifying their homes too. He emphasizes that not only will they experience cost savings and maintain comfort, but they will also be contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future for our community. Thank you, Mike, for sharing your electrification journey and inspiring others in our community to make the switch. Suburb Zero ACT wants to help up to 1000 other households do the same ✨

Watson Buzz

By Aileen Conroy

Beeswax is amazing! It is multiuse and completely recyclable.

🐝 Female worker honeybees produce wax flakes from their bodies when they are 12 to 15 days old. They eat a lot of honey during this period. Wax is softened by chewing and warmed by body heat with the worker bee circling inside each cell. To bridge gaps, the bees cling together to make a scaffold for the sheet of hexagons they are constructing (see below).

Wax flakes - building blocks for honeycomb



Photo credit:
Flowhive Facebook page

🐝 Hexagons are efficient. They are the shape which is structurally strong enough to store the most weight using the least amount of wax.

🐝 The queen lays eggs in the cells which hatch into larvae, and then spin cocoons. After about 2 weeks the fluffy baby bee is born by chewing its way through the permeable wax cap.



Pollens in comb

🐝 Pollen and Honey are also stored in the comb. Wax is used to create watertight caps to preserve “ripened” honey.

🐝 Bees are efficient recyclers and reuse wax many times.

🐝 Beekeepers must guide the bees to arrange their comb into removable frames in hives so they can regularly check for any disease.

🐝 After harvesting, beeswax can be used for honeycomb, lip cream, candles, and wax wrap ✨

The Planning Report – the juggernaut rolls on.

By Simon Clarke- WCA Planning Group Convenor and NCCC representative

The Planning Working Group’s purpose is to advocate for development which is sustainable, environmentally positive, enhances community, is human in scale and fits into the existing Watson “liveability,” of which we are justifiably proud and committed to protect.

Block 76. – The nominal subdivision has been released. It includes a playground and confirmation that the tree line around the boundary **will be retained** by the territory government – this is great news for wildlife, environmental amenity and the 30% tree canopy target. The target time for the access road to be completed is late 2023. They hope to begin the playground around the same time. The Canberra Cohousing Group are confirmed as being earmarked for one of the blocks.

AIE / Old High School site. The redevelopment of the High School footprint seems to be progressing very slowly. As a private development information is hard to come by however it was always flagged as a 10-15 year development.

Car-o-Tel site. This has been the subject of a proposed Territory Plan variation to allow development on the site. It doesn’t seem to have gone further than a proposal at this stage.

Petrol Station Site. – This seems to have stalled. Purdon Planning have said they are preparing a new development proposal but there is no movement at this stage. One to be monitored.

Norrebro – Ground works for one of the 6 storey blocks has begun with excavation and pilings being installed ready for the underground parking. Another to be watched.

*Stay safe and warm, everybody**

Majura Café Poets (continues)

Small things

An array of unique rustic colours,
Each one is never the same daily
occurrences at sunrise
or sunset, beams of tangerines
and aubergines, Gold flickers,
lemon tones intertwined.

A rainbow can occur, fleetly.
like a tilted half-bent umbrella, of
violets, hot pinks, baby blues, and
And yellows. These natural
wonders to appreciate, not
costing a dim.

Perched on a hill, or observed
from a front porch, your backyard,
You may decide to stop, reflect ❀

Nicole Kulesza

What Else

nothing else
surpasses love
it is immeasurable
vast
and
in the small spaces
warming

even whilst
bitter sighs
whisper
their down-draught chill
it is
untouchable
venerable

because
nothing else
matters ❀

Belinda Ketley

Watson Property Sales

Publicly available

13/215 Aspinall Street	\$865,000	13 Dowling Street	\$1,100,000
3 Darley Place	\$1,361,125	116/20 Federal Highway	\$477,000
22/215 Aspinall Street	\$860,000	64/67 Negus Crescent	\$680,000
225 Aspinall Street	\$1,090,000	39 McCawley Street	\$1,035,000
125/395 Antill Street	\$850,000	14 Williams Street	\$880,000
6 Beechworth Street	\$825,000	26/7 Shewcroft Street	\$700,000
177/395 Antill Street	\$660,000	76/45 Negus Crescent	\$900,000
35/67 Negus Crescent	\$950,000	78 Ian Nicol Street	\$600,000
36 Simpson Street	\$1,002,000	12/271 Antill Street	\$410,000
20 Ehrlich Circuit	\$1,077,500	75 Negus Crescent	\$1,245,000
19c Negus Crescent	\$695,000	15/45 Negus Crescent	\$875,000
92 Beechworth Street	\$650,000	73 Ian Nicol Street	\$710,000
10 Whitmore Crescent	\$665,000		

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Financial Counselling Support



**NATIONAL
DEBT
HELPLINE**
1800 007 007

If you are struggling with debts, the National Debt Helpline is only a phone call away on **1800 007 007**.

If you are a small business owner struggling with debt, the Small Business Debt Helpline can provide support on **1800 413 828** *



Bin collections in Watson occur on Friday

	Landfill Weekly
	Recycling Fortnightly
	Green waste Fortnightly



Scan this QR code to download the calendar *



Waste Sorted
act.gov.au/bins



Community Notices

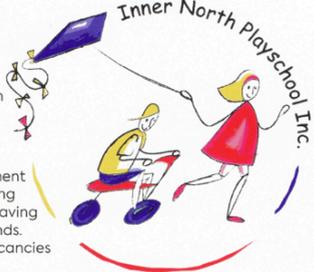
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www.innernorthplayschool.org

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watzoneditor@gmail.com *



WATSON
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991

I / We,
(full name of applicant/s)

of (address)
.....

hereby apply to become a member/s of the above-named incorporated Association.
I / We agree to be bound by the rules of the incorporated Association for the time
being in force.

Email

..... Date
(Signature of applicant 1)

..... Date
(Signature of applicant 2)

Note:

Information provided by the applicant is used to confirm Watson residency and to enable the Watson Community Association (WCA) to communicate with members regarding upcoming meetings and matters of interest. Information provided is not shared beyond the purpose of WCA information distribution.

Please return completed form to:



watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

